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Letter dated 24 November 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been instructed by my Government to advise you of its views on the adoption in the Third Committee of the draft resolution "The situation of human rights in Kosovo" (A/C.3/54/L.82) on 22 November 1999.

1. The adoption of the draft of a separate resolution on the situation of human rights in Kosovo and Metohija is unwarranted considering that a draft resolution on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/C.3/54/L.86) has been adopted in the Third Committee.

Kosovo and Metohija is a part of the Republic of Serbia, one of the two constituent Republics of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (their names are unnecessarily, and tendentiously, added in brackets in the draft resolution after the official name of the country) and the consideration of the human rights situation in a part of a sovereign country is politically motivated and reflects the position of those who support the secession of that Serbian province.

2. The draft resolution is silent altogether about massive violations of the human rights of all residents of Kosovo and Metohija, including Albanians, as a direct result of the almost three-month air aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), led by the United States of America, on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Hundreds of innocent civilians were massacred in air raids on refugee convoys alone.

3. The draft resolution is oblivious of the real situation of human rights in Kosovo and Metohija in the last five months since the deployment of the international security force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which is characterized by the lack of minimum respect for the human rights of Serbs and other non-Albanians, including the most basic right to life, as well as some of the most fundamental freedoms, such as freedoms of movement, employment and expression. Accordingly, 330,000 Serbs and other non-Albanians have been driven out of this Serbian province in this period.

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The ethnic cleansing of Serbs and non-Albanians in the presence of KFOR and UNMIK has been pointed out also by Jiri Dienstbier, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see A/54/396/Add.1, para. 34). By their failure to prevent this flagrant violation of human rights, the United Nations presences have become an accomplice in the creation of a mono-ethnic Albanian community, contrary to all postulates in the field of human rights.

4. There is ample evidence and many lists of abducted and missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija which prove convincingly that Albanian terrorist separatists in this Serbian province continue to commit crimes against Serbs and other non-Albanians, killing, abducting or holding them captive in "detention centres", located by KFOR, as pointed out by the Special Rapporteur (see A/54/396, para. 120).

5. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has fulfilled all its obligations and continues to cooperate with the United Nations presences in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). It is KFOR and UNMIK, however, that have failed to fulfil some of the most crucial provisions of the resolution, in particular the one relating to ensuring a secure environment for all residents of Kosovo and Metohija irrespective of their ethnic origin, and they are responsible for the current violations of human rights in this Serbian province.

6. . The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has always called for a political solution to the problems of Kosovo and Metohija based on dialogue, but it is necessary to create appropriate preconditions for such a solution.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter published as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 116 (c).

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanović**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.